City of Lafayette Staff Report

For:	City Council
By:	Leah C. Greenblat, Transportation Planner
Date Written:	June 3, 2008
Meeting Date:	June 9, 2008
Subject:	Proposed Projects for Miscellaneous Grant Application Submittals

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Introduction / Discussion

The Circulation Commission met on June 2, 2008 and discussed proposed future grant project submittals. Staff prepared a report, attached. The Commission supported staff's recommendation and agreed to forward a recommendation of support to the City Council.

Fiscal Impact

No City matching funds are required.

Recommendation

1. Receive and file.

Attachments

1. May 27, 2008 Circulation Commission staff report by Leah Greenblat

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For:	Circulation Commission
By:	Leah C. Greenblat, Transportation Planner
Date Written:	May 27, 2008
Meeting Date:	June 2, 2008
Subject:	Proposed Grant Applications Submittals

Introduction

Staff has been notified of two separate, potential funding sources for transportation projects. We identified projects for each grant which we believe will compete favorably for these funds. Staff recommends that the Circulation Commission forward a recommendation to the City Council in support of staff submitting applications for these projects.

Discussion

The City of Lafayette recently received two calls for transportation projects. The first is from Caltrans for the Federal Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS). This funding source offers relatively large amounts of funding ($1,000,000 maximum) for constructing facilities that enhance safety for pedestrians and bicyclists and encourage walking and biking to school. The program has very specific rating factors that consider not only the potential for reducing injuries and fatalities and encouraging non-motorized access to schools, but also that the project has to be developed in conjunction with community stakeholders and include education, enforcement and encouragement components. Historically, this funding source has been highly competitive. Should funds be awarded, the State requires no local match.

The City's process for developing the Stanley-Springbrook sidewalk project with the neighborhood closely matches the requirements of the SRTS grant. Based on staff's analysis of the funding criteria, this project may compete well for funding.

The Commission previously reviewed the traffic calming plan and the sidewalk project for the Stanley-Springbrook neighborhood along with a preliminary funding plan. At that time, staff indicated the need to apply for these funds to construct the walkway portion of the project. Now that the call for projects has been made, staff proposes to submit an

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application for this project. At this time, staff estimates that the funding request will be approximately $340,000.

The second call for projects is for the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's (BAAQMD) Bicycle Facility Program funds. This is a relatively new funding program that is intended to streamline the process for obtaining BAAQMD funds that implement new bicycle facilities. The program will fund projects up to $210,000 maximum. The funder also established a maximum grant reimbursement rate based on facility type per mile constructed. These pre-set reimbursement amounts are relatively low when compared to the City's recent known experience of installing bicycle facilities therefore we are not recommending that the City seek funds to complete major capital improvements, such as the planned corridor improvements on Pleasant Hill Road south of Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Based on staff's review of the application, we are recommending that the City apply for funds to sign high-priority bicycle routes which we believe can be accomplished within the funder's maximum grant amount for this category of facility. At this time, staff recommends requesting approximately $102,000 to fund four bicycle routes in the Master Bikeways Plan: Happy Valley Road, Reliez Valley Road, Upper Happy Valley Road and Camino Diablo. These routes are identified as the next highest priority routes following the implementation of signage projects this summer which were previously funded with a Transportation Development Act, Article 3 grant.

Fiscal Impact

None.

Recommendation

1. Forward a recommendation of support to the City Council for submitting the grant applications.

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